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in entomology, by masters who had known and loved young Putnam. Mrs. Putnam, convinced of future development, insisted on securing for the academy additional land and a church property, which, rechristened as *Science Hall*, now houses part of the museum collections and supplies an audience room for public gatherings and scientific lectures. Through her urgency a year ago, a curator was called that more and aggressive work might be undertaken. To-day the Davenport Academy of Sciences has its valuable land, two buildings, important collections, eight volumes of published *Proceedings*, endowed publication fund, small but growing general endowment, an active and competent curator, because she has rallied the little band of workers through dark days and has encouraged them when they might falter.

Within the last two years the academy has undertaken much new work. Its desire is to come into a close and helpful relation with the general work of education of the city. Before the new curator, Mr. Paarmann, was called, Miss Sheldon, the corresponding secretary, reestablished the long discontinued lectures to school children at the academy's museum. Since the arrival of the curator, Mr. Paarmann and Miss Sheldon have continued this important work, with gratifying success. In this work Mrs. Putnam was greatly interested and heartily sympathetic. She was enthusiastic also in establishing courses of scientific lectures. The first of these was given in the winter of 1901-02; the second was presented during the season just closing. They were well received and proved more than self-supporting. With delight, Mrs. Putnam, as president of the academy, watched the development of work, the growth of plans, the increasing interest of the community. In February, after the lecture course was closed, she turned her attention to an exhibition of Indian basketry, to be arranged at the academy, for its benefit. All preparations were completed, and on February 19 the doors were opened. The exhibition was to continue through three days and its success was ardently desired. Unex-

pected numbers came the first and second days and went away delighted. On the night of the 20th, after a busy and happy day at the exhibition, pleased and satisfied at the result and looking forward to an even better morrow, Mrs. Putnam went to her home. A little wearied, she lay down to rest; without a word, and probably without suffering, she passed away.

Mrs. Putnam made no pretensions to be a scientist. But she knew almost every prominent scientific worker in our country and many of the foreign students. She loved to attend the gatherings of the American Association and other organizations, that the academy might keep in touch with the world of science. In October last she was in attendance at the Congress of Americanists in New York. Though she was not present, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in its December meeting at Washington, elected her a fellow. This unsolicited mark of esteem greatly pleased her, though she felt herself undeserving of it. To whom, however, could it have been more worthily given than to her who had striven so loyally for the advancement of science?

In her death, the object of so much love and labor was not forgotten. The whole of her estate is left for the academy's benefit. Through the provisions of her will \$24,000 are available for the continuance of publication of its volumes of *Proceedings*. The academy will continue to touch the outside world of science. Thus, though dead, they speak—the mother and the son, once more united.

FREDERICK STARR.

#### THE ROYAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY.

WE learn from the London *Times* that the society will this year make its awards as follows: The Founder's medal has been awarded to Mr. Douglas W. Freshfield for his explorations in the Caucasus and the Himalaya, and for his persistent efforts to further the spread and raise the standard of geographical education. In 1868 he made a journey to the central Caucasus which included the first ascents of Kasbek and the eastern summit of Elbruz and the discovery of new snow passes across

the main chain, besides yielding valuable information as to the topography and glaciation of the region. In 1887 and 1889 Mr. Freshfield undertook further journeys to the Caucasus, which added very largely to accurate knowledge of the central group, to the physical geography of the main chain, and to the correct delineation of the higher region, which previously had been but imperfectly mapped. A journey from the headwaters of the Ingur through Abkhasia to Sukhum Kaleh also deserves mention. The two volumes in which Mr. Freshfield has published an account of these travels, 'Central Caucasus and Bashan,' 1869, and 'Exploration of the Caucasus,' 1896, are standard works on the region with which they deal, and contain excellent maps, the fine map of the Caucasus, embodying much new work, being especially noteworthy. In 1899 Mr. Freshfield broke new ground, carrying out an expedition into Sikkim and Nepal, where he made the circuit of Kanchinjunga at a high level, one of the passes being of the height of 20,000 feet. This journey, though interfered with by an exceptional snowfall, yielded valuable results as regards the glaciation and the physical geography of the district.

The recipient of the other royal medal, which is bestowed annually by the patron, is Captain Otto Sverdrup, the leader of the admirably organized and conducted expedition in the *Fram*, extending over a period of four years, which has done so much to complete our knowledge of the geography of the Arctic regions. The expedition was the first to penetrate through Jones Sound to the Arctic seas beyond. It explored the western shores of Ellesmere Land, defining the main outlines of its intricate system of fiords and reaching from the south to a point within sixty miles of that reached by Aldrich on his journey round the north coast. To the west of Ellesmere Land three large islands were discovered, extending west to about 106° west longitude; this discovery confirmed the conjecture that land existed to the north of the Parry Islands. Of the Parry Islands the north shores of Findlay's Island and North Devon were explored for the first time. It

will be remembered that Captain Sverdrup was captain of the *Fram* during Dr. Nansen's great expedition, and assumed command when Nansen left the ship. He safely worked the *Fram* clear from the ice, after attaining a latitude of 86° north.

The Victoria medal for geographical research had already been awarded as a special medal to Dr. Sven Hedin.

The minor awards of the society have been bestowed by the council as follows: (1) The Murchison grant is awarded to Mr. Isaachsen, a lieutenant in the Norwegian army, who accompanied Captain Sverdrup on his last expedition. He assisted with the astronomical and magnetic observations, and had charge of the cartographical work. He was Captain Sverdrup's right-hand man, and did a great amount of exploring work. He it was who discovered the two most westerly of the three islands the existence of which the expedition made known for the first time. (2) The Gill memorial goes to Mr. Ellsworth Huntington, an American traveler, who carried out a remarkable journey through the Great Cañon of the Euphrates River, during which he made valuable observations in physical geography. (3) The Back grant is bestowed on Dr. W. G. Smith, of Yorkshire College, Leeds, for his investigations into the geographical distribution of vegetation in Yorkshire, embodied in maps and a paper which will shortly be published. (4) The Peek grant is received by Major Burdon, whose name has been mentioned as the probable first resident at Sokoto, in the Northern Nigerian Protectorate. He has presented to the society a number of excellent route maps which he has compiled as the result of his journeys in northern Nigeria.

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#### SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.

THE spring meeting of the council of the American Association for the Advancement of Science will be held in the Cosmos Club, Washington, D. C., on Thursday, April 23, 1903, at 4:30 P.M.

THE annual stated session of the National Academy of Sciences begins at Washington on Tuesday, April 21.